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## ARTIFICIAL PETRIFICATION OF ANIMALS.

A pamphlet has been lately published at Florence, professing to give an account of some strange discoveries by Girolamo Segato, (known by his maps of Tuscany, Africa, and Morocco,) and the general accuracy of which is attested by the principal professors in that city. The report sets out by stating that, while Segato, in 1820, was traversing the deserts of Africa for the purpose of perfecting his map, he was overtaken, in the valley between the Second Cataract and Mograb, by one of those whirlwinds, or rather sand-spouts, which are not uncommon phenomena in the districts of Upper Nubia. After it had passed, and Segato was boldly following in its track, he discovered in one of the hollows which the wind had ploughed up, remains of carbonized matter, and, at last, a completely charred body, both the bones and flesh of which were otherwise in good preservation. It struck him instantly that the process of charring could only have been effected by the scorching sand; and that if the heat of the sand had, in this instance, effected the complete dessication and carbonization of animal substances, might it not be possible to effect something similar by artificial means? On his return to Italy he commenced his practical experiments, and at length succeeded in imparting to the limbs and bodies of animals, solidity and indestructible durability. By this process, whole bodies, as well as individual parts, acquire a thoroughly firm consistence, which is more perceptible and decided according as the respective parts are softer or harder. The skin, muscles, nerves, veins, fat, and blood, all undergo this change, without its being necessary to remove the intestines, which assume the same consistence. At the same time, the colour, form, and character in general, remain unchanged, and no smell is perceptible; and both limbs and joints remain flexible and moveable as when alive. When bodies have acquired this consistency, neither damp, nor air, nor moths, can affect them; nor, as experiments have proved, do they suffer any injury from remaining under water for several days together. The weight is but very slightly diminished. Not a hair is lost; on the contrary, they are more firmly rooted than ever. Birds and fishes lose neither skin, scales, nor colours, and, in like manner, insects and worms remain in every respect:—Segato's cabinet is said to furnish abundant evidence of this. A canary-bird, which has been ten years in this state, has withstood the attacks of water and moths. In the first year it was placed thirty, and, in the second, above forty days under water; and for a still longer period it was exposed in a box to moths, collected expressly for the purpose. On being taken out, it appeared absolutely uninjured. Similar experiments were made with other animals, and with the like success. The hand of a woman, who died of consumption, exhibits the paleness and emaciation of that fatal disease; and the fingers of a man's hand are perfectly flexible at the joints, and wholly unchanged. A still more remarkable object is a table, composed of 214 pieces joined together. The observer would take them for so many different kinds of stone, and yet they are nothing more than pathological portions of human members!—*Athenæum*.

## ON THE REVERBERATIONS OF SOUND.

At one of the meetings of the British Association, Dr. Reid, of Edinburgh, read a very interesting paper upon Sound, particularly in relation to the precautions to be attended to in the construction of public buildings, in which lectures, sermons, or other discourses, were to be delivered. He drew the attention of the Section to two distinct cases:—the first, where, as in a church, the speaker is, for the most part, placed in one fixed position; the second, where, as in the Houses of Lords and Commons, the speakers address the assembly from many various quarters. The author then gave some remarkable instances of the great distance at which sounds had been heard; one of the most curious of which instances was, that when the fleet engaged, we believe, in the blockade of Copenhagen, were in a very extended line, ships at the one end distinctly heard, and recorded in their logs, a loud can-

nonade which they heard on a particular day; and it was found afterwards, by a comparison of the logs of the ships, that this very cannonade proceeded from the proving of large pieces of ordnance, which had been carried on for the greater part of a day at a dockyard in the neighbourhood of one end of the fleet, from which the other end, at which the reports were heard, was distant three hundred miles. He then showed how the reverberations of sound, from the ceiling, walls, and floor of a room, by being continued too long, and interfering with each other, would have the effect of producing a confused noise, and thus interfering with the hearing of the succeeding parts of the discourse. From all the premises which he had previously laid down, he concluded, "that low roofs to buildings, and consisting of many planes set at various angles, rough and interrupted walls, and a floor either possessing very little resilience, such as earthen floors do, or, if boarded, then much broken and interrupted by irregular seating, produced a building best suited to the hearing of a speaker in many directions." He exhibited a plan of his own chemical laboratory in Edinburgh, in which these particulars were all exemplified; and he declared, that a speaker expressing himself in a tone very little above a whisper, could be heard in the most remote parts of that room.

Professor Stevelly gave a remarkable instance of the multiplication of reverberations, which could be observed by clapping the hands at several places successively, under the long piazza of the Library of Trinity College; also, a peculiar whistling musical note, which was heard when a whip was cracked or the hands clapped at a small distance from iron railings, such as those about our squares, the effect arising from a succession of echoes from the equidistant rails.

## THE BODY OF CANUTE THE DANE.

In June, 1766, some workmen who were making some repairs in Winchester College, discovered a monument which contained the body of Canute the Dane, King of England. It was remarkably fresh, had a wreath round the head, and several ornaments of gold and silver bands, together with a ring on his finger, with a very fine large stone in it; also in one of his hands was a silver penny.

## THE EARLY ROSE.

Sweet rose, what joy to view thee  
Thus bursting into bloom;  
You give a promise to me,  
That now dispels all gloom,  
Of days so bright and cheering—  
I long their smiles to see.  
Ah! what is so endearing,  
As thy young buds to me.  
The spring-time has its pleasure—  
Its freshness to delight;  
And golden autumn, treasure,  
That anxious cares requite:  
Yet summer's beauteous flowers,  
Of fragrance ever free,  
And, oh, it's fairy bowers,  
Are dearer far to me!  
Bright token of its splendour,  
Thus early come to tell,  
The beauties—glowing, tender—  
That now in embryo dwell.  
What pleasure thus to meet thee,  
When all is drear beside!  
Oh, charming rose! I greet thee—  
Of flowrets thou'rt the pride.

FLORA.

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